

Chapter 3 - Inventory of Architectural Styles - Final Draft

Inventory of Architectural Styles

The following section identifies the prevalent older architectural styles found in the city that date after the Colonial Period and describes the architectural elements that characterize each style. When proposing a change to a building in **Architectural Preservation Districts**, the applicant should consider this stylistic information to ensure that the new design is sympathetic to the existing building's architectural characteristics.

Queen Anne Style



Lawson House (1907, R-2007)
411 Scotland Street

The oldest surviving non-colonial architectural buildings in Williamsburg are a few late 19th-century Victorian houses in Peacock Hill and the Colonial Extension subdivision. The exceptions are two antebellum mansions and a few vernacular

houses from the early-to-late 19th century. The Victorian houses exhibit the characteristics of the "free classic adaptation" sub-style of the **Queen Ann Style**. The houses are generally two-story frame houses with cross-side gables, wide porches, and simple classical or restrained Queen Anne decorative details. A few houses along Scotland Street and North Henry Street exhibit more elaborate decorative details along the eaves and through contrasting siding materials.

- **ROOF:** Hipped with lower cross gables (usually with a dominant front-facing gable, side gables, and sometimes a corner tower), Full-width front gable, Cross gables only, or Hipped with large front-facing gabled dormer; slate or tin shingles; classical cornice and pediment gables.
- **SIDING:** Weatherboards with shingles at the upper story or gables, or sometimes mock half-timbering in gables, weatherboards only.
- **WINDOWS:** Two-over-two, one-over-one, or sometimes six-over-six or crescent or Palladian gable windows and shutters.
- **DOOR:** Glazed or six-panel with sidelights and/or transom.
- **COLORS:** Muted earth tones with contrasting trim and decorative details.
- **PORCH:** Full width, or wrap-around, deep porch with small, gabled pediment over steps and classical, carpenter gothic, or spindled details.

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Bungalow



Johnson House (1926,90)
500 Capitol Landing Road

A substantial collection of early 20th-century **Bungalows** is located along Capitol Landing Road, the eastern portion of the West Williamsburg subdivision, Braxton Court, in the area around Jamestown Road and Griffin Avenue and scattered about in other neighborhoods surrounding the Historic Area. These low, one-and-one-half-story narrow houses were sided with wood shingles or weatherboards, have low gable, hip or hipped gable roofs, wide overhangs, and exposed roof rafter tails along the eaves, and deep porches across the façade. Most of these survivors have lost original decorative siding and window details, but a few good examples remain on Capitol Landing Road and Richmond Road.

- **ROOF:** Low side gables with a shed or gable dormer in front, Front gable without dormer, or Hip with hipped gable dormer in front; wide roof overhangs along with eaves and over the gables; exposed roof rafter tails; wood or asphalt shingles.
- **SIDING:** Shingles or weatherboards.
- **WINDOWS:** Six-over-one, one-over-one.
- **DOOR:** Glazed.
- **COLORS:** Muted earth tones with white trim and rafter tails.
- **PORCH:** Full-width deep porch inset under a roof or attached gable or hip-roof porch; supported by simple square columns on piers.

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American Foursquare

A smaller collection of early 20th-century **American Foursquare** houses have survived and are located in Peacock Hill, the area to the west of Peacock Hill along Richmond Road and Armistead Avenue, the Colonial Extensions subdivision, and along the upper portion of Jamestown Road. These boxy, two-story frame or masonry houses have hip or occasionally gable roofs, are sided with shingles and/or weatherboards, have wide porches, and are two, three, or four bays wide, often have a small dormer on each hip roof facade.



Bull House (1920)
199 Armistead Avenue

- **ROOF:** Hip with a hipped-gable dormer in front or on all sides; interior chimneys with occasionally one central interior chimney at the peak of the hip roof; tin or slate shingles.



Willie Baker House (1915, R-1929)
529 Tyler Street

- **SIDING:** Weatherboards, or weatherboards with shingles above a belt course on the upper story.
- **WINDOWS:** Six-over-one, one-over-one.
- **DOORS:** Glazed.
- **COLORS:** Muted earth tone, with lighter trim or pale "colonial" colors.
- **PORCH:** Attached full-width porch with a hipped roof supported by square columns or square columns on piers.

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Colonial Revival

Most of the surviving older architectural structures outside the Colonial Williamsburg Historic Area are **Colonial Revival** houses. This popular style began to appear in the city's outlying neighborhoods at the turn-of-the-century and gained popularity in the late 1920s and 1930s and the post-World War II era. Colonial Revival houses in Williamsburg have four basic forms:

- one-and-one-half story multi-dormered gambrel (Virginia Gambrel),
- one-and-one-half story full-dormered gambrel (Dutch Colonial Revival),
- two-story gable, and
- one-story and half-story multi-dormered gable.

The earliest examples of the "**Two-story gable**," "**Dutch Colonial Revival**," gambrel, and "**Virginia Gambrel**" houses reflect the influence of national building trends and the builders' guides and catalogs of local builders. These houses have an abundance of classical architectural details, i.e., Palladian windows, dentil or modillion cornices, columns and pediments, sidelights and fanlights around doorways, and casement windows. Examples of this form can be seen in West Williamsburg Heights, College Terrace, Richmond Road, Jamestown Road, Chandler Court, Pollard Park, Indian Springs, Burns Lane, and Capitol Landing Road.

Two-Story Gable Style – 1900 to 1940s



Jerome H Casey House (1929)
711 Richmond Road

- **ROOF:** Gable or Hipped roof; classical cornice, slate, or asphalt shingles.
- **SIDING:** Weatherboards or brick.
- **WINDOWS:** Six-over-six, eight-over-eight, six-over-one, eight-over-one, classical proportions: Palladian accents and/or paired arcs in side gables; shutters.
- **DOOR:** Six-panel; classical door-surrounds; sidelights and/or fanlights.
- **COLOR:** White or pale "colonial" colors with dark shutters.
- **PORCH:** Gable pediment hood or portico over stoop; side enclosed sun-room and/or side porch.

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Dutch Colonial Style – 1920's to 1930s



Harris House (1931, 10)
605 College Terrace



George Rollo House (1922)
501 Newport Avenue

- **ROOF:** Over-hanging gambrel with full-width shed dormer in front; slate shingles.
- **SIDING:** Brick, weatherboards, or sometimes shingles.
- **WINDOWS:** Six-over-six; eight-over-eight; six-over-one; eight-over-one; classical proportions; shutters.

- **DOOR:** Six-panel; classical door-surround; sidelights and/or fanlight.
- **COLOR:** All white, dark shutters and roof, or pale "colonial" colors.
- **PORCH:** Arched or gable pediment hood, portico, or full-width porch inset under the roof, or attached with a shed roof.

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Virginia Gambrel Colonial Revival Style – 1930's to 1940s

- **ROOF:** Over-hanging gambrel; two, three, or four dormered windows in line with the front fall of the house; end chimneys; slate shingles.
- **SIDING:** Brick, weatherboards, or sometimes shingles.
- **WINDOWS:** Weatherboards; brick end walls, occasionally.
- **DOOR:** Six-panel; classical door-surround; transom, occasionally.
- **COLOR:** All white, dark shutters, and roof.
- **PORCH:** None.



Smith House (1940)
608 Pollard Park



Sheldon House (1959)
614 College Terrace

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Later, Colonial Revival houses of the Post-World War II era have simpler forms and fewer architectural details. The most prevalent form of this period is the **"One-and One-Half-Story Gable."** The largest concentrations of this form can be seen in Pinecrest and the West Williamsburg Subdivisions.

One-Story and Half-Story Gable



1947
712 Monumental Avenue

- **ROOF:** One-and-one-half-story gable with two gable dormers in front; classical cornice; end chimneys on more stylized examples; slate or asphalt shingles.
- **SIDING:** Weatherboards or shingles; occasionally brick end walls.
- **WINDOWS:** Six-over-six; six-over-one; shutters.
- **DOOR:** Six-panel; classical door-surround and sometimes transom.
- **COLOR:** White or pale "colonial" colors with dark shutters.
- **PORCH:** Occasionally, gable pediment hood over the stoop.

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More recent Colonial Revival houses have directly imitated buildings and features found in the Colonial Williamsburg Historic Area or exhibit more of a Georgian Revival style appearance. Examples of the Georgian Revival styles are evident in Yorkshire and The Woods Subdivision, outside the Architectural Preservation Districts, and examples of both the Historic Area imitations and the Georgian Revival style appear throughout the city as infill and older neighborhoods.

Vernacular



Skillman House (1900, R-1950)
110 Brooks Street

An often-overlooked collection of architectural structures is the late 19th-century and early 20th-century **Vernacular** houses that exist as isolated rural houses and are prevalent in surviving historic African-American and working-class neighborhoods in the city. Surviving examples within the Architectural Preservation Districts can be found in Braxton Court, in the area west of Peacock Hill, at the western end of the West Williamsburg subdivision, along South Henry Street, and scattered about the outlying areas of the old City. These small, simple frame houses appear in a wide variety of forms, from elegant little shotgun-type bungalows and cross-gable houses to awkward two-story gable houses to simple, functional, additive-form houses.



Frank Powell House (1840-69)
520 Jamestown Road

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The most recent variety of modern houses found in the developing subdivision at Port Anne might be called **ABSTRACT HISTORICAL ECLECTIC**. These houses are asymmetrical, multi-volume forms sheathed in a multitude of abstracted historical motifs but borrowing mainly from the Colonial Revival and Queen Anne traditions.



Auburn House (2012) – 1 Corbin Close